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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
16 September 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The India-Pakistan Situation
(Report #43 - As of 6:00 A.M. EDT)

1. There is virtually no fresh information on the fighting. A lull is apparently in progress on all fronts, probably induced in large part by the need on both sides to regroup and sort out logistics problems. Peshawar was bombed again last night.

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2. Pakistan rejected Secretary General U Thant's proposal of a cease-fire to take effect this morning in a letter to Thant received in New York last night. Indian reaction to this development was a foreign ministry statement that the war would continue with "unabated vigor."

3. Commenting on the Pakistani position regarding a solution to the conflict, the US Embassy in Karachi comments that the Pakistanis would now probably accept a cease-fire that fell short of its standard demand for a withdrawal of all forces from Kashmir and a subsequent plebiscite in three months since the primary Pakistani objective, which was to create a situation which would force international consideration of the Kashmir question, has long since been accomplished. Ambassador McConaughy believes that the exact terms of an armistice could quickly be arranged so far as Pakistan is concerned if the Pakistanis felt they had a reasonable assurance that their basic aims regarding a Kashmir settlement and long-term security vis-a-vis India

State Department review completed

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would be advanced. Such assurances have not been spelled out but would certainly preclude a return to the status quo ante and would probably prove unacceptable to India at this time.

4. The Ambassador believes that the Pakistani relationship with Communist China does not inhibit Pakistani flexibility on Kashmir, but notes that Pakistani terms regarding a settlement of the dispute will appear quite reasonable if the Pakistanis do well militarily, but will seem far less reasonable if the Indians appear to be winning in the field.

5. In a conversation with Ambassador McConaughy, the Iranian foreign minister reported that Ayub, in his discussions with the Turks and Iranians on 14-15 September, appeared flexible, forthcoming, and highly desirous of reaching a fuller understanding with the US. Ayub reportedly very largely agreed with Turkish and Iranian representations that the fighting must be stopped before Pakistan's military potential was wholly dissipated.

6. The Pakistani president also reportedly proposed an Iranian mission to Moscow, London and Washington to make clear the Pakistani position in the dispute. This mission, which has yet to receive the approval of the Shah, would attempt to set the stage for direct US-Pakistani talks "ranging across the entire board." Ayub reportedly would like full face-to-face discussions and complete restoration of traditional US-Pakistani relations.

7. Both Ayub and Foreign Minister Bhutto reportedly were highly gratified by Secretary Rusk's statement on Kashmir yesterday and by the US role in keeping the conflict from spreading to East Pakistan. According to the Iranian foreign minister, Ayub said that Pakistan was "prepared if necessary to be a satellite of the US" as long as this did not involve becoming a satellite of India in collaboration with the US.

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8. One aspect of what appears to be the present Pakistani concern is the POL situation.



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[redacted] The embassy estimates that Pakistani POL stocks are only adequate for four to five days starting 14 September, although several tankers are due in Karachi between 18 and 21 September.

9. A London committee of supplier companies is reportedly working on insuring continuing POL supplies.

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[redacted]
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reports indicate that Iran is considering an embargo of oil supplies to India.

10. A Turkish foreign ministry official present at the talks between Turkish Premier Urguplu and Pakistani Air Marshal Asghar Khan told the US Embassy in Ankara that Urguplu categorically stated that Turkey could not provide Pakistan with planes, pilots, and spare parts, but did assure Asghur Khan that as much assistance as possible from purely Turkish resources would be given. However, an official of the Indian foreign ministry has indicated that India believes that Turkey is willing to provide Pakistan with spare parts for F-86s, radar devices, bazookas, mortars, and shells. The Indians also claim that small arms have already been flown into Pakistan from Turkey, and that a considerable quantity of small arms and ammunition, including bazookas, antiaircraft guns, and anti-tank ammunition is on the way by ship.

11. In Indonesia, members of the government-sponsored youth front have "taken over" the Indian consulate in Medan, North Sumatra, while in West Java all Indian property has been placed under government "supervision." Meanwhile, India has officially informed Indonesia that any military or other help rendered Pakistan would be considered an act hostile to India.

12. The New Delhi Embassy believes that Defense Minister Chavan, along with Shastri, has scored considerable gains in political standing as a result of the conflict. Chavan is widely regarded as playing a role almost equal to Shastri himself. As government spokesman on military affairs he has gained widespread publicity and is now becoming as well-known as more senior figures in the Congress Party hierarchy.

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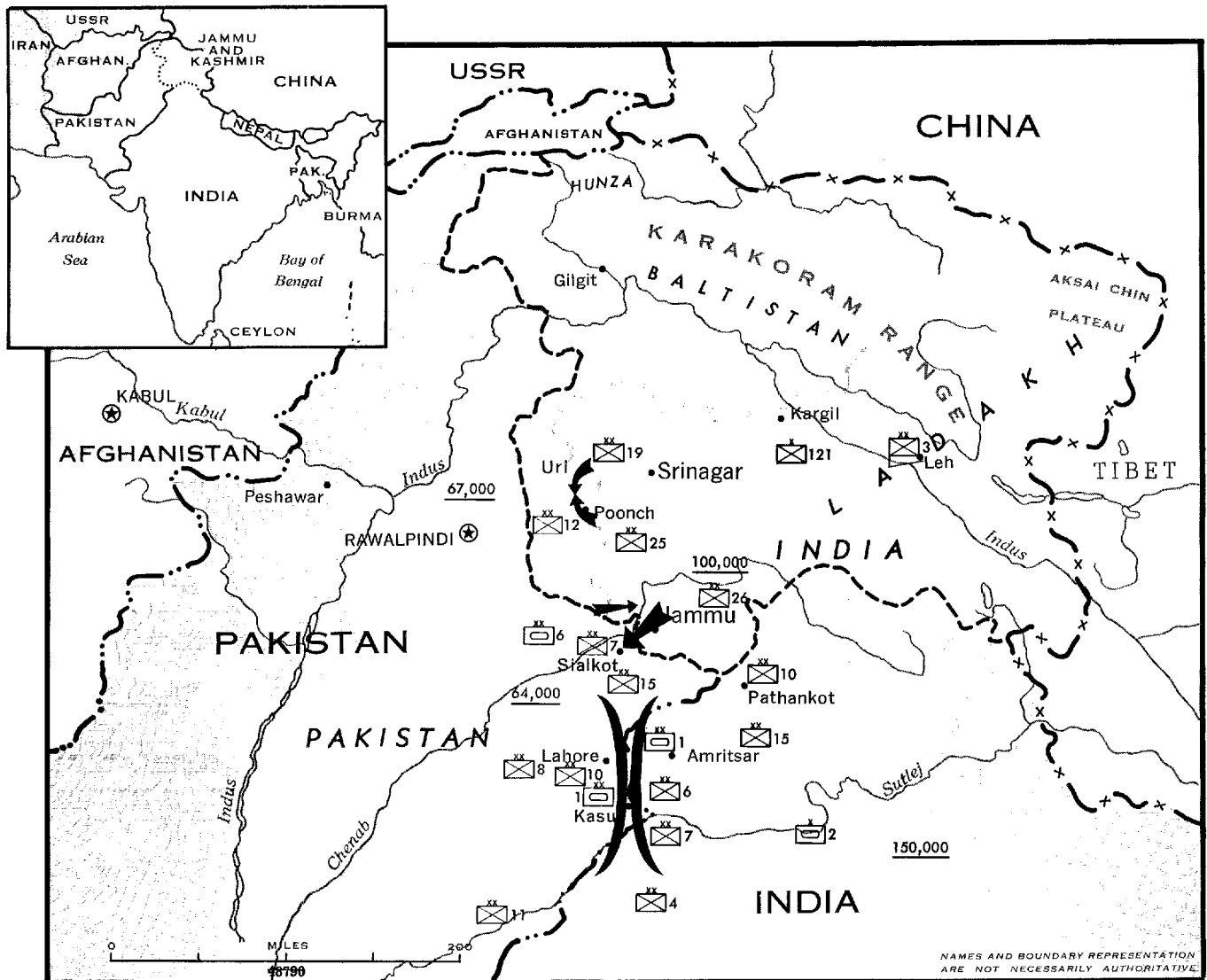
14. The Indian press reports that the West Bengal Government has reduced rations of food grains by two ounces due to transportation difficulties. The US consulate general in Calcutta reports that communal tensions in West Bengal remain very high although there has as yet been no serious outbreak of violence.

15. The Pakistani-controlled Azad Kashmir Government has asked all retired officers, noncoms and men of the Azad Kashmir armed forces to report for duty at once.

16. According to wire service reports, Indian officials have been "stunned" by Secretary Rusk's comments yesterday endorsing the idea of a plebiscite in Kashmir as part of an overall India-Pakistan settlement.

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INDIA-PAKISTAN Order of Battle

() Line of confrontation

← Thrust movement

↪ Link-up

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